

Remarks

The following is a response to the Office Action dated June 30, 2005. Appreciation is hereby expressed to the examiner for taking the time to discuss with the undersigned ways of overcoming the rejection on July 5, 2005.

Per the above Amendment, claims 7, 8 and 12 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of those claims is now moot.

Claims 4-6 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Per the above-noted discussion, it was agreed that if the word "recording" in claims 4-6 were to be changed to "computer readable", then those claims would contain statutory subject matter. Per the above Amendment, claims 4-6 have been thus amended. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6 are now in condition for allowance.

Further during the above-noted discussion, the examiner suggested that particular portions in the specification that support method claims 8-11 be provided. Per below, portions of the specification that does provide support for method claims 8-11 are listed. Note that the steps shown in Fig. 4 which support the steps of method claim 9 are steps that control the emphasis signal generator 11 shown in Fig. 1. And since the emphasis signal generator 11 is part of an apparatus, the signal it outputs is a useful output, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9-11, the support of which are provided hereinbelow, are statutory.

Method claim 9 has the steps (1)-(11) supported by the steps in Fig. 4 and portions of the specification (description) as indicated below.

The step (1): the steps S26 and S28 in Fig. 4; the specification, page 24, lines 8-10; and the specification, page 25, lines 3-5.

The step (2): the step S22 in Fig. 4; and the specification, page 23, lines 20-22.

The step (3): the step S22 in Fig. 4; and the specification, page 23, lines 20-22.

The step (4): the step S30 in Fig. 4; and the specification, page 24, lines 11-15.

The step (5): the step S42 in Fig. 4; and the specification, page 25, lines 6-10:

The step (6): the step S32 in Fig. 4; and the specification, page 24, lines 16-20.

The step (7): the step S44 in Fig. 4; and the specification, page 25, lines 11-15.

The step (8): the step S34 in Fig. 4; and the specification, page 24, lines 21-23.

The step (9): the step S46 in Fig. 4; and the specification, page 25, lines 16-18.

The step (10): the step S38 in Fig. 4; the specification, page 24, line 24 to page 25, line 2; the adder 13 in Fig. 1; and the specification, page 20, lines 15-21.

The step (11): the step S50 in Fig. 4; the specification, page 25, lines 19-23; the adder 13 in Fig. 1; and the specification, page 20, line 22 to page 21, line 2.

The feature of method claim 10 of changing the values of samples near maximal-value-corresponding samples and minimal-value-corresponding samples is basically supported by the specification, page 33, line 23 to page 34, line 20.

Steps (12)-(17) of method claim 10 are supported by portions of the specification (description) as indicated below.

The step (12): the specification, page 32, lines 11-17.

The step (13): the specification, page 32, lines 11-17.

The step (14): the specification, page 32, lines 18-26.

The step (15): the specification, page 32, lines 18-26.

The step (16): the adder 13 in Fig. 1; and the specification, page 33, line-23 to-page 34, line 20:

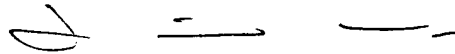
The step (17): the adder 13 in Fig. 1; and the specification, page 33, line 23 to page 34, line 20.

The feature of method claim 11 is supported by Fig. 9, and page 35, line 1 to page 36, line 10 of the specification.

In light of the foregoing, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and allow claims 4-6 and 9-11, in addition to the previously allowed claims 1-3, so that all claims pending be passed to issue at an early date.

In the event the examiner has questions in regard to this response or suggestions for expediting the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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